

What NCLB Means To Parents/ Guardians

- Parents or guardians receive an annual informational letter from the Superintendent about NCLB each Fall.
- If your child's teacher does not meet the Federal definition of "highly qualified," you will receive written notification.
- If your child's school is deemed "In Need of Improvement" and/or deemed an "unsafe school," you will receive written notification.
- The Superintendent makes an annual report to the Board of Education and public each October regarding the district's progress in student achievement.
- Starting in Grade 3, parents or guardians receive annual reports on individual student progress and performance on standardized tests.
- An annual report card for each school is provided by the state. Information can be obtained by visiting, www.state.nj.us.
- Parents or guardians with children in FMS are invited to join the school-based NCLB committee. Goals, action plans and student achievement are discussed at these meetings. Contact the building principal at 732-249-6410 for details.

District Administration

Edward Q. Seto
Superintendent of Schools

John Calavano
Assistant Superintendent for
Business/Board Secretary

Eveny Pagan
Assistant Superintendent for
Curriculum and Instruction

Merrill Altberg
Director, District Projects and
Communications

Brian Bonanno
Interim Director, Personnel Services

Henry Sherren
Director, Pupil Personnel Services

Orvyl Wilson
Director, School Management and
Student Advocacy

Roberta V. Mitchell
Principal

Nikkii Tatum
8th Grade Vice Principal

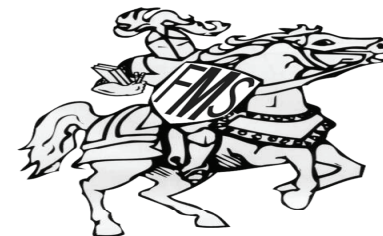
Mike Rich
7th Grade Vice Principal

Leaving No Child Behind in Somerset:

A Parent's Guide to Understanding the Federal Law of NCLB

"What endeavor could be more noble than to ensure educational proficiency for every student?"

The mission of Franklin Township School District has always been to ensure that no child is left behind. This initiative is evident in the district's goals for academic achievement. The No Child Left Behind (NCLB) legislation puts into law Franklin Township's ongoing belief system. What follows is an informational piece that breaks down the NCLB Act into understandable terms for those unfamiliar with the provisions of the law.



2010-2011

About the Law

No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act was signed into law by President George W. Bush in January 2002. The law, which will remain in Effect for six years, is a revamped version of the Elementary and Secondary School Act of 1965 and the Improving America's Schools Act of 1994.

The law links federal funding with new student achievement standards. In order to continue receiving federal funds, participating states, including New Jersey, must increase proficiency standards over time until all public school students are 100% proficient in literacy and math by 2014. Proficiency standards are also being established for science. New federal Standards include teacher qualifications and safe schools initiatives as well as student attendance and achievement.

NCLB Act has raised the bar for all schools by measuring success not just as a whole, but also in parts.

Proficiency levels are now measured by the total student population as well as in subgroups such as special education, race and ethnicity, economically disadvantaged and limited English-speaking students.

Scoring on standardized tests:

Advance proficient: 250 and above

Proficient: 200-250

Below proficient: below 200

The NJ ASK tests for grades 7 and 8 will be administered between May 3-May 13, 2011 during regular school hours.

Benchmarks for this year:

LAL-86%

Math- 80%

Key Definitions

The following are important definitions and terms used when discussing NCLB:

Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) —

A state-wide standard that all subgroups are expected to obtain. The standard is applied to state assessment tests: NJ ASK—grades 3 to 8; ASHA —grade 11.

Benchmarks — Goals established by the state to measure whether schools/districts are making AYP.

Highly Qualified Teacher — The law's initiative where every child is entitled to be taught by a highly qualified teacher in his/her grade level and/or content area.

Early Warning — Status applied to a school in its first year in which it does not make AYP as a total school population for a subgroup.

In Need of Improvement — A status applied to a school that does not meet AYP for two consecutive years for the same subgroup in the same subject.

Safe School — Every child is entitled to attend a school that is violence-free.

District Steps

The District looks to enhance the performance of all its students and welcomes the challenges presented by NCLB because focus on subgroups is long overdue.

In the District, work to improve student achievement in all areas began long before NCLB Act was signed into law. The District continually evaluates its curriculum and instructional methods in an effort to enhance the academic achievement for all its students.

District Administration attends regular state-wide informational meetings. The faculty attends In-service presentations during the year at Staff Development Days and gains knowledge through monthly faculty meetings.

Each school sets math, language arts and safe school goals annually in the summer. The goals are reviewed regularly throughout the course of the school year.

Various interventions, programs and student supports are run throughout the school year to assist students and families in need.